

# **SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET**

## **Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services**

*This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the City of New Bedford. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2002.*

### **Residents of the City of New Bedford**

#### **Characteristics of Admissions**

In FY 2002, there were 124,539 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 2.8% (3,548) of these admissions reside in the City of New Bedford. 1% (35) of admissions from the City of New Bedford were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only admissions, and can represent a figure larger than the actual number of individuals.** In FY 2002, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the City of New Bedford reported the following characteristics:

- 71.5% (2,538) were male and 28.5% (1,010) were female.
- 68.1% (2,417) were between the ages of 21-39.
- 68.5% (2,430) were white non-Latino, 11.8% (417) were black non-Latino, 12.3% (436) were Latino, and 7.5% (265) were other racial categories.
- 64.2% (2,277) were never married, 11.0% (389) were married, and 24.9% (882) reported not to be married now.
- 41.6% (1,476) had less than high school education, 45.3% (1,606) completed high school, and 13.1% (466) had more than high school education.
- 17.3% (612) were employed.
- 20.2% (718) were homeless.
- 33.1% (1,173) had prior mental health treatment.

#### **Primary Substance of Use**

At admission clients identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the City of New Bedford.

<b>Table 1</b>					
<b>Primary Drug by District and State FY 2002</b>					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
City	34%	50%	5%	7%	2%
State	45%	37%	6%	4%	3%

#### **Substances Used in Past Year**

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

<b>Table 2</b> <b>Number of admissions Reporting Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2002</b>							
<b>City of New Bedford</b>							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
<b>FY '95</b>	1,764	1407	665	903	225	801	538
<b>FY '96</b>	1,952	1,505	858	962	260	935	664
<b>FY '97</b>	2,276	1,603	918	1,002	195	1,245	911
<b>FY '98</b>	2,768	1,725	879	1,096	247	1,767	1,348
<b>FY '99</b>	2,623	1,827	922	1,125	280	1,517	1,144
<b>FY '00</b>	2,977	2,103	986	1,366	456	1,748	1,263
<b>FY '01</b>	2,620	1,692	767	1,064	331	1,507	1,080
<b>FY '02</b>	3,548	2,325	1,106	1,494	399	2,048	1,404

### **Heroin and Injection Drug Use**

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the City of New Bedford and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

